

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 ACDA-07 DHA-02 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /090 W

-----057399 051519Z /46

R 051425Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4421

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KINSHASA 6243

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR MILI MORG

SUBJECT: LTG BUMBA DROPPED AS CAPTAIN GENERAL OF THE ARMED FORCES

REF: KINSHASA 6192

1. REFTEL REPORTED MOBUTU ANNOUNCEMENT TO TAKE OVER THE ARMY GENERAL STAFF AND TO ASSUME TOTAL CONTROL OF THE MILITARY. JULY 1 SPEECH, HOWEVER, MADE NO EXPLICIT REFERENCE TO FATE OF CAPTAIN GENERAL BUMBA. LOCAL MEDIA SUBSEQUENTLY REPORTED THAT IN LINE WITH ARMY REFORM, MOBUTU ISSUED DECISION THAT BUMBA WILL HENCEFORTH BE "AT THE DISPOSAL OF THE PRESIDENT." AT THE SAME TIME, GEN. BABIA, CURRENT DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE (DDN) WAS NAMED ACTING CAPTAIN GENERAL WHILE HIS DEPUTY, COL. BOPEYA REPLACED HIM AS ACTING DIRECTOR GENERAL. PRESIDENTIAL DECISION FURTHER CONFIRMED BG SINGA AS CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE GEN-DARMERIE (A POST HE HELD BEFORE HE WAS PLACED IN COMMAND OF THE SHABA OPERATION); COL. KIKUNDA AND CAPTAIN LOMPONDA AS, RESPECTIVELY, CHIEFS OF STAFF OF THE AIR FORCE AND THE NAVY. MOBUTU DESIGNATED HIMSELF AS CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE GROUND FORCES TO REPLACE COL. MAMPA NOW UNDER DETENTION; AND HE CONFIRMED BG LIKULIA IN HIS POSITION AS AUDITEUR GENERAL (HIGHEST LEGAL AUTHORITY IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE FAZ).

2. COMMENT: MOVE APPEARS CLEARLY ATTEMPT TO DO AWAY WITH POST OF CAPTAIN GENERAL WITHOUT MAKING IT TOO OBVIOUS. RATHER THAN TAKE MORE DRASTIC ACTION AGAINST BUMBA, MOBUTU CHOSE MORE TYPICALLY AFRICAN SOLUTION OF SIMPLY EASING HIM OUT BY KEEPING HIM AROUND BUT WITHOUT EFFECTIVE COMMAND. IT REMAINS TO BE

SEEN HOW BUMBA WILL REACT TO HIS APPARENT OUSTER. AT PRESENT,
DUST HAS YET TO SETTLE AS MORE CHANGES ARE EXPECTED IN THE
MILITARY.
CUTLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMED FORCES, MILITARY PERSONNEL, PERSONNEL SEPARATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 05-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977KINSHA06243
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770238-0209
Format: TEL
From: KINSHASA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770792/aaaadcjn.tel
Line Count: 66
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 81245171-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 KINSHASA 6192
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1968805
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LTG BUMBA DROPPED AS CAPTAIN GENERAL OF THE ARMED FORCES
TAGS: PFOR, MILI, MORG
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/81245171-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009